

Is your child safe?

Creating a safe sporting environment

A guide for parents and carers

“Don’t be afraid to question. A good and professional organisation will welcome the chance to demonstrate that they are providing a safe environment.”



OUR POLICY

SAFESPORT

It’s important for you to check that any sports club or activity your child attends has your child’s safety as its priority. Even if the club seems professional, there are questions that you should ask to make sure that they have all the necessary safeguarding measures in place.

SAFE ACTIVITY CHECKLIST

All organisations will have robust and up-to-date policies and procedures in place. They will be able to provide you with information on what to do if you or your child have any concerns. Established codes of conduct will be in place for coaches, volunteers and young people.

WELFARE OFFICER The club will have a designated Welfare Officer to answer any questions you may have.

SAFE RECRUITMENT The Club will have a safe recruitment process in place which include interviews, references and have undertaken the appropriate police checks for their volunteers and staff.

PROMOTING WELFARE Enquire about how the organisation promotes the welfare of children and young people.

CLUB ACCREDITATION Find out if the club has an accreditation award such as Clubmark or a National Governing Body equivalent.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION Ask if coaches and volunteers are qualified through a Governing Body.

COMMUNICATION A good club will have open communication with children and young people and their parents or carers. They should have in place guidelines on the use of text messaging, social media and the appropriate language to which all their staff and volunteers should adhere. Parents and carers should be kept well informed of club activities.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU ARE CONCERNED?

You may feel reluctant to raise a concern and worried about the impact it may have on your child and other people attending the club, but if you are concerned you must take action.

Listen to your child, ask them questions about the activities in which they are involved and report to the Centre Manager.

WHAT ELSE SHOULD YOU LOOK OUT FOR?

- Activities where parents or carers are discouraged from watching the sessions or becoming involved.
- Behaviour or activities that encourage rough play, sexual innuendo or humiliating punishments.
- Individuals who take charge and operate independently to organisational guidelines.
- Individuals who show favouritism or personally reward.
- Encouragement of inappropriate physical contact.
- Poor communication and negative responses to questions about safeguards for your child.
- A 'win at all costs' attitude towards the sport or activity.
- Children who drop out or stop going for no apparent reason.
- Invitations for children to spend time alone with staff or volunteers (or even visit their home).
- Text messages or internet communication direct to young people that does not include parents or carers.

If you have any concerns around safeguarding, please speak to the Site Manager.

To see our full policy visit www.wakefield.gov.uk/safeguarding